

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
NEA-11 IO-13 /100 W
-----066396 152242Z /61

R 141746Z JUNE 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 626
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
DIA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1091

DEPARTMENT PASS AMEMBASSY MAPUTO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, PDIP, PINS, CN, US
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN COMOROS
REF: ANTANANARIVO 1065 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING TO AFP THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF THE POLITICO-MILITARY DIRECTORATE, AHMED ABDALLAH AND MOHAMED AHMED, LEFT FOR FRANCE ON JUNE 10. ACCORDING TO THE LIBYAN CHARGE IN ANTANANARIVO, WHO HAS BEEN TO COMOROS SINCE CHANGE OF REGIME, THEY ARE TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF MAYOTTE AND POSSIBILITY OF GETTING FRENCH TECHNICIANS TO RETURN TO COMOROS AND HELP IN ADMINISTERING THE COUNTRY.

2. COMMENT: LIBYAN CHARGE WAS PERSONALLY DISLIKED BY REGIME
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OF ALI SOILIH AND IS OBVIOUSLY MUCH MORE SATISFIED WITH NEW GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVES IT WILL BE MUCH MORE REASONABLE IN ALL FIELDS AND PARTICULARLY IN DOMAIN OF RELIGION WHERE IT WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO WORSHIP AS THEY LIKE AND NOT TRY AND FORCE PACE OF MODERNIZATION. HE CHARACTERIZES FORMER REGIME AS CHINESE-DOMINATED AND

SAYS ALI SOULIH SAW HIMSELF AS A NEW MAO TSE TUNG.
HE REPORTS THAT NEW RULERS WERE HARSH ONLY WITH ALI
SOILIH HIMSELF AND WITH SOME OF HIS YOUNG NATIONAL
COMMITTEEMEN. HE SPOKE TO FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER
MUZAWOIR ABDALLAH DURING HIS TRIP AND SAYS LATTER IS
BACK IN PRIVATE LIFE BY HIS OWN PREFERENCE AND NOT
BEING BOTHERED IN ANY WAY BY AUTHORITIES. END COMMENT.

3. WHEN I QUESTIONED CHARGE ABOUT POSSIBLE FOREIGN
BACKERS OF MAY 13 COUP HE SAID THAT AHMED ABDALLAH HAD
TOLD HIM HE HAD PERSONALLY FINANCED THE WHOLE OPERATION
HIMSELF. THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN ANTANANARIVO, WHILE
OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH RECENT COMORIAN DEVELOPMENTS, GOES
TO GREAT PAINS TO DENY ANY INVOLVEMENT, REMINDING
LISTENERS THAT IT WAS AHMED ABDALLAH WHO BROKE WITH
FRANCE IN 1975 OVER ISSUE OF MAYOTTE. I NOTICE, HOWEVER,
THAT ACCORDING TO MAGASINE MARCHES TROPICAUX ET
MEDITERRANEENS, OF 9 JUNE, FRENCH COMMUNIST
DEPUTY MAXIME KALINSKY HAS ACCUSED FRENCH INTELLIGENCE
SERVICES OF BEING ACTIVELY INVOLVED AND OF FOMENTING
SIMILAR PLOTS AGAINST OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. BARRETT

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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